



Minutes

Bicycle & Trails Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 28, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Cheu called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Cheu, Rome, McCann, and Hauge

ABSENT: Hubbell, Clark, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Katharine Hardt Mason

STAFF: Public Works Senior Engineer Julie Behzad
Public Works Administrative Secretary Karen Nelson

DECLARATION - POSTING OF AGENDA: Ms. Behzad certified that this meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Behzad opened the meeting to public comments. There being no comments, the public comments period was closed.

MINUTES: The minutes for the May 26, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. Staff Report

*** Appointment of BTAC Members / PRC May Meeting**

Ms. Behzad reported Steve Cheu was re-appointed in May and Norma Rome was appointed in June. There is still one position vacant.

2. Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update (BPAC)

Member Hauge reported that the July meeting was canceled.

3. July 15th meeting with Walkable Community at Holiday Inn Express

Member McCann reported that Mayor Kennedy and Jim Ashcraft, Public Works Director attended. This is a non-profit group out of Washington, DC, that goes around the country to promote cycling and walking. The Chair of this group is from Morgan Hill. This time they were here specifically to ask questions about growth in areas around Morgan Hill, San Jose, and Coyote Valley and how we keep it bike friendly. They were told that we have a Master Plan we follow and Mayor Kennedy explained the Measure P Growth Control. This group offers the opportunity to hold seminars on biking and walking, especially in downtown areas. Mayor Kennedy will be contacting the City Manager to get arrange for a seminar to be held. Member McCann spoke with Mayor Kennedy regarding the status of submission of the Bike Friendly Community application and shared his support. One participant asked if “we have walking groups associated with BTAC?” Mayor Kennedy will contact the City Manager to get together with this group to put together that kind of summit. The applicants also talked about involvement with the schools. With budget crunches all over the country, one of the impacts has been where communities don’t have money to hire buses; so a “moveable bus” is implemented where parents move kids from one bus stop to another, and another parent takes over, saving money and kids are still bused to school. The Mayor suggested contacting a walking citizens group, which Member McCann did; this new waling group, meets 6 days a week at 6pm, and they walk all over the City. Member McCann contacted Marie Lamb to invite her group to come to the meeting tonight after their walk around 7pm. They did not attend.

The Walkable Community Group is interested in what we are doing in Morgan Hill. Member Rome asked for a definition of “downtown friendly”. The Group said a lot of towns our size are emphasizing the downtown as a friendly place; the Mayor talked a lot about downtown enhancements we have implemented, traffic calming and mixed use planning.

Ms. Behzad shared that we are totally reconstructing Depot Street to compliment what is downtown; \$2.6M in grant money is funding these improvements.

Member McCann also used this opportunity to talk to the Mayor about BTAC and the role of enacting and facilitating rather than advising. Member McCann shared that he was advised that the way to do that is to have the committee put together a proposal to change from a committee to a commission and take it to PRC, who, if they approve it, will forward it to Council for a vote.

BUSINESS

1. Appoint New Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Behzad distributed copies of the June staff report, noting that Chris Hauge is the member with the most seniority. Members Clark and McCann are next in line. Member Hauge accepted the Chairmanship, and Member Clark was appointed as Vice-chair.

2. Review County-wide VTA Bikeways Map Revision

Mr. Cheu continued this item. VTA is revising maps and we have opportunity to review.

3. Educational Programs (Sprockids / LAB Programs)

Member Hauge took the Sprockids program to the Charter School, but he has since changed his job and cannot run the program for them. The School would like to be contacted in the spring. Members suggested a rotated schedule where each member serves ½ hour once a week to run this program. How does a person become a Sprockids instructor? Member Hubbell will be asked at the next meeting. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

4. Bike Parking at Various Community Events

Member Cheu has informed the Chamber of Commerce that bike parking would be provided for the Taste of Morgan Hill, and he is the current contact for the Chamber. Member Cheu will start inquiring as to who is interested in working the event, plus finding bike racks. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

(This is the opportunity for any committee member to have an item placed on a future agenda.)

- Commission Proposal - make action item
- Bike Friendly Community Application
- Bikeways Master Plan Quarterly Review in August

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm. The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2005 at 6:15 pm.